

## THE DAR ES SALAAM DECLARATION ON THE REFUGEE PROBLEM

1. At the kind invitation of H.E. Ali Hassan Mwinyi, President of Tanzania, their Excellencies Presidents Juvenal Habyarimana of Rwanda, Pierre Buyoya of Burundi, Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and Prof. Lunda Bululu, Prime Minister of Zaire, met in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on 19th February 1991. Also in attendance were H.E. Dr Salim Ahmed Salim, Secretary General of the OAU, Mr Sergio Viera de Melio of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.
2. Considering the long standing traditional and historical ties that exist amongst the countries and people of the region, the conference underlined the spirit of good neighbourliness, solidarity and brotherly cooperation that have always served as a basis for addressing and resolving common problems.
3. Having heard the reports of the Heads of State concerned and the Secretary General of the OAU on the implementation of the decisions taken at Mwanza, Gbadolite and Goma summits regarding the initiation of a dialogue between the parties to the conflict, the establishment of a ceasefire and the deployment of the military observer team to be followed by a Regional Conference, the five Heads of State reviewed the situation prevailing in Rwanda as a result of the events that began in October, 1990 and, in particular, the problem of Rwandese refugees in the region.
4. The conference expresses its thanks and appreciation to H.E. Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, President of Zaire, for his efforts in instituting a dialogue between the Rwandese government and the armed opposition and also takes note of the difficulties that have been encountered in this respect. The conference, however, urges President Mobutu to maintain the momentum of the dialogue so that the latter can find a solution to the problem facing the parties concerned."
5. Fully aware that the fate of the Rwandese refugees is the responsibility of the people of Rwanda and its government, the government of Rwanda reiterates its commitment to finding a definitive and durable solution to this problem. In this respect, the government of Rwanda:
  - (a) recognises that voluntary repatriation is a legitimate right of Rwandese refugees and constitutes a factor for peace and national reconciliation.
  - (b) undertakes, within the spirit of its policy on political groupings, to remove all obstacles which impede the return of Rwandese refugees to their country and to guarantee their full participation in the democratic process of the country.
  - (c) is ready to take appropriate steps to facilitate the harmonious return and reintegration in all sectors of national life of refugees as declared by the 1951 UN Convention and the 1969 OAU Convention on refugees.

- (d) agrees, subsequent to an agreement on a ceasefire and a successful conclusion of the dialogue, to extend the General Amnesty to include persons who may have committed acts against the State prior to their departure or during their stay outside the country.
6. The Regional Conference appeals to OAU member states, the international community and international organisations concerned to take appropriate steps to facilitate naturalisation and the economic and social integration of Rwandese refugees who might opt to settle outside their country of origin. In this respect, the four neighbouring countries - Burundi, Uganda, Tanzania and Zaire - undertake, subject to their constitutional provisions and their respective national laws and regulations, to facilitate, as far as possible, the naturalisation of those Rwandese who may express the desire to become nationals of their country of residence.
  7. The Regional Conference urgently appeals to the international community, friendly countries, international (inter-governmental and non-governmental) organisations to give financial, technical and material assistance to ensure the reintegration of returnees in their country of origin and that of those Rwandese who may decide to remain in their present countries of residence and others that may be naturalised.
  8. (a) the regional conference requests the OAU and UNHCR to formulate a plan of action with the aim of implementing the decisions of the present conference.  
(b) such a plan of action should take into consideration the impact of the influx of returnees on the social and economic infrastructure of the country of origin as well as the needs of countries of asylum which will have decided to accept some of the Rwandese in accordance with the national legislation of these countries.  
(c) the conference further requests the OAU and the UNHCR to involve the countries concerned, donor countries and agencies and international institutions in the formulation of this plan of action. In order to implement the provisions of this plan of action, the OAU and UNHCR are mandated to convene a donors' meeting within six months after the adoption of this declaration in order to mobilise the necessary resources.
  9. The regional conference expresses its appreciation to the Secretary General of the Organisation of African Unity and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the contribution they made to this conference and for the important role they have always played in the search for a durable solution to the refugee problem.
  10. The Regional Conference further extends its thanks to H.E. President Ali Hassan Mwinyi, the government and people of Tanzania for the brotherly reception and warm hospitality accorded to the Heads of State and their delegations.